

It might sound idealistic, but at least, if you have a balanced budget and the public can predict you are going to live within a balanced budget, that helps to build confidence. Because the more we can do in Government that leads to predictability, the more confidence we are going to build. So, that way is to balance the Federal budget. Nothing could be more beneficial to the American economy than if we in Congress could get our own spending habits under control.

During the debate on the farm bill last year, and this gets back to interest rates being lower as a result of our balancing the budget, I had an opportunity to ask the Food and Agriculture Policy Research Institute, an institute working in tandem between the University of Missouri and Iowa State University—I asked the Institute what benefit it would be to agriculture if Congress balanced the budget. This institute replied that, if the Federal budget were balanced by the year 2002, the yearly benefit to agricultural economy would be \$2.3 billion due to interest rate reductions. On top of that increased cash flow from increased economic activity would be another \$300 million yearly into the profitability of agriculture. So this adds up to a total increase of \$2.6 billion per year, just for agriculture, if Congress balances the budget.

The Institute's findings are based on the Congressional Budget Office estimate that short-term interest rates would decrease 1.1 percent, and long-term interest rates would decline 1.7 percent. That is still under what Chairman Greenspan said that interest rates would go down to if we were to balance the budget. Everybody knows, whether it is small business or agriculture, interest rates are extremely important to profitability. Farming happens to be a very highly capital intensive industry. Land is expensive and getting more expensive, and farm machinery is expensive. The lower the interest rates the better for our farmers. Small business benefits as well. We all understand the need of lower interest rates.

But, again, it is better to achieve those lower interest rates through congressional action on a balanced budget, not on some inflationary action by the Federal Reserve.

A recent editorial in the Washington Post said it so well—that editorial states:

There will always be a debate about how fast the economy can safely be allowed to grow and where the balance point exists between the risk of renewed inflation and lingering slack. The more success the Fed has had in combating inflation, lately, the more that risk has seemed to recede. But that hardly means that the board's policies have been wrong.

The editorial continues:

Our own sense is that the board has both less latitude and less fine control of the economy than some of the rhetoric surrounding its decisions would suggest. Its ability to tilt in the direction of growth is further constrained by Congress itself. The

budget deficit they have compiled in recent years has given the board little choice but to lean on the brakes as an offset. Mr. Greenspan seems to have done the job in navigating a narrow channel.

I think that says it better than anything I can say. But it reemphasizes, from the Washington Post editorial, the significant difficulty of Chairman Greenspan's job and the Federal Reserve's job of fighting inflation when Congress is fiscally irresponsible.

If we want the economy to grow, we do that by having a predictable fiscal policy, and that is best done when we are committed to balancing the budget year after year after year. In turn, people then can look at the Federal Reserve and say they do not have a very important job; their job is less significant than our decisionmaking of business investment and the number of jobs that would be created, bringing about a stable economy.

Congress has not been responsible. So in the meantime, we have to have a master who can stabilize the economy. It seems to me that Alan Greenspan serves that purpose. We have seen real growth. We have seen real confidence. We have seen people investing more money in the stock market daily. We have seen new highs achieved in the stock market. If you do not think that is an important indicator, the President is talking about it all the time as a measure of why he should be re-elected.

But if we want to encourage growth, we have no further to look than ourselves in this body and the other body. Balancing the Federal budget will promote and ensure economic growth. Confirming Alan Greenspan to a new term as Chairman of the Federal Reserve will keep inflation under control and promote economic stability. The American people need this stability because it is the only way we are going to create the jobs we have to create to keep the American dream alive.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii is recognized.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. AKAKA. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. AKAKA pertaining to the introduction of S. 1878 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SENSELESS BURNING OF CHURCHES

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I have introduced a resolution against the senseless burning of churches that we have witnessed and, really, just become aware of in recent weeks. The latest one, unfortunately, is in my State. So I want to speak out on this issue for a few minutes.

Let me say, I think all of us have been horrified that a place of worship would be a place to be chosen by terrorists to desecrate. We all know in this country, whatever our religious preference is, how important a part of our lives the place of worship is, that it is a part of our communities, part of our families and part of what makes America so wonderful, that we do have the freedom of religion and the ability to come together to worship God in a way that we want to do.

It is because of that very special place that churches hold in our society that it is particularly awful that we see a burning of churches in any way, but especially in what seems to be a pattern. In fact, since 1991, there have been 110 such incidents of church arson that have been reported.

I picked up the phone this week and called Chester Thomas, who is the pastor at the New Light House of Prayer in Greenville, TX. This church was burned to the ground. Mr. President, I never cease to be amazed at how wonderful people can be in a time of crisis. And, truly, Pastor Thomas is a person that inspires me because he is so upbeat about the experience that he has just had. He told me that they have been experiencing burglaries in the church and vandalism. But now, of course, they have lost the church. It was burned to the ground. But he said that he had just come from a service that was put together by another church in Greenville, TX, a church that said, "Come and worship with us. Bring your congregation to our congregation, and we are going to work together to rebuild what you have lost."

You know, that is what America is—reaching out in a time of crisis that helps heal the wounds for something that really is unexplainable such as burning down a place of worship. But Pastor Thomas was very, very upbeat about it. He said, "We are going to come together, and this is going to make us stronger, and I love the people of this community. I even love the person that did this terrible act, because I know whoever it is is a troubled person."

Well, we can learn a lot from Pastor Thomas. I am here today to say to Pastor Thomas and to all of the people

who worship at the New Light House of Prayer in Greenville, TX, as well as the people who worship in the Church of the Living God in Greenville, TX, which was not destroyed but which was burned and is badly damaged, I am here to say to them that all of America cares, that this is not right, and we must condemn the burning, the desecrating and the destruction of religious property.

In fact, I am reading from the resolution that condemns the burning, desecrating, and destruction of religious property. We urge Federal law enforcement authority to expeditiously and vigilantly investigate and appropriately punish the perpetrators of these heinous crimes.

Mr. President, this is something that we can all come together and fight for. We will work with the President. We will work with the entire U.S. Senate and the entire U.S. Congress to say that we want to put teeth in the laws that would keep this from happening, because you are tearing down the very spirit of a community when you desecrate a place of worship. We do not want to do that. We want to speak out against it.

So I say to Pastor Thomas and to his whole congregation, to the people who also worship at the Church of the Living God in Greenville, TX, that we must stand together against this, and by doing so, we will learn the lesson from Pastor Thomas. We will be stronger. We will be stronger as communities. We will be stronger as a country.

Mr. President, I wanted to read the list of the cosponsors of this resolution. Besides myself, they are Senators GRAMM, FAIRCLOTH, MCCONNELL, COCHRAN, THURMOND, COVERDELL, HELMS, D'AMATO, MURKOWSKI, WARNER, NICKLES, and ABRAHAM.

COMMENDING BECKY CAIN

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to commend the efforts of a fellow West Virginian, Becky Cain, for her enormous contribution to her State and country. Since Ms. Cain's days as a high school civics and American government teacher, she has worked to reverse the trend of low voter turnout and the lack of citizens' participation in politics.

In the 1970's, Ms. Cain began to volunteer for the League of Women's Voters, a nonprofit organization aimed at increasing the political participation of American women. Constantly on the search for new voters, she did not leave her days of manning voter registration tables behind when she became president of the League in 1992.

Mr. President, as president of the League, a volunteer post, Ms. Cain decided that the organization should undertake projects that would rebuild voters' faith in the political system. She has made it her mission to attack the apathy and distance between citizens and their government, a recurring

problem that the League hopes to cure. Becky Cain and the League of Women Voters of the United States have made great strides toward this goal with the passage of the National Voter Registration Act, or the "motor-voter" law, in 1995. The "motor-voter" law has generated the greatest increase in voter registration since the late 19th century, registering some eleven million voters.

Ms. Cain and the League are now focusing on encouraging registered voters to take the second step and to responsibly vote. They have joined the Ladies' Home Journal in an effort to educate women voters by running political features aimed at women's issues.

Ms. Cain has been active in West Virginia for more than 20 years, working on numerous advisory boards to the government on issues such as environmental protection and health care reform. Her experience in grass roots movements has helped her to keep in touch with the voters as she fulfills the responsibilities of her national position in the League.

Mr. President, Ms. Becky Cain has ably served her fellow West Virginians and the American people through her participation on advisory boards, as well as her volunteer work for the League of Women Voters for the United States. She is a West Virginian who embodies the qualities and character of a leader, and I salute her for her commitment to the American political process. I ask unanimous consent that a recent article in the National Journal, entitled "She's in a League of Her Own," be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the National Journal, May 4, 1996]

SHE'S IN A LEAGUE OF HER OWN

(By Eliza Mewlin Carney)

When Becky Cain started staffing voter registration tables for the League of Women Voters of the U.S. in the 1970s, she frequently ran into people who were embarrassed to admit that they had failed to sign up to vote.

Now that she's president of the league, one of the nation's oldest nonprofit dedicated to citizen political participation, Cain still goes to malls and state fairs in search of new voters. But these days the public reaction is different.

"We get people saying: 'No. No way. I don't want to legitimize that system with my participation.' That's a whole different change in attitude," Cain said. "They are choosing—deliberately choosing—not to participate in a system that they think is broken."

To Cain, a former teacher of high school civics and American government, that change is alarming. Cain's concern has helped prompt the league this year to pursue several projects aimed at rebuilding voters' faith in the political system and at closing the gulf between citizens and their government.

Since 1992, when Cain became president, a volunteer post, the league has scored one of its most important victories: the passage of the National Voter Registration Act, or "motor-voter" law, which took effect last year. Some 11 million citizens registered to vote in 1995, and another 9 million are ex-

pected to do so by November—the largest increase since the late 19th century, the league maintains.

Now it's time to make sure that those voters take the next step and actually pull the lever, Cain said. In addition to a full roster of league get-out-the-vote and voter education activities, Cain's group has teamed up with the Ladies' Home Journal on a massive "Power the Vote!" campaign to increase women's political participation, which poll show has recently declined. (For more on the drop in women's voting, see NJ 4/13/96, p. 824.)

The league and the New York City-based Journal have set up a toll-free number to help people register and vote, as well as a World Wide Web site that offers how-to tips on rating debates, understanding political polls and interpreting campaign ads. Between now and November, the Journal, which has a circulation of 4.5 million, will also run political features aimed at women.

It's one of dozens of ambitious league partnerships formed under Cain, 48, who has been working her way up the group's ranks since 1975. A citizen activist in West Virginia for more than two decades, her eclectic background includes grass-roots political work and a stint as West Virginia's deputy secretary of state. She's also served on dozens of government advisory boards set up to tackle issues ranging from environmental protection to health care reform.

Her hands-on political savvy has helped Cain win powerful allies and raise the league's profile. The nonprofit, nonpartisan organization enjoys credibility on both ends of the political spectrum, and a healthy budget adds to its clout. The organization and its educational affiliate, the League of Women Voters Education Fund, spent upwards of \$5 million last year.

But Cain's down-to-earth, ebullient personality has never allowed her to lose touch with voters and their day-to-day concerns, her colleagues say. Cain still lives in West Virginia, in a town outside the capital called St. Albans, and commutes by plane two or three days a week to the league's Washington headquarters. (The league reimburses her for the propeller plane rides, which officials say are cheaper than if Cain rented an apartment in Washington.) Much of her time is spent on the road visiting the league's 1,200 affiliates.

"She is very much in touch with not only what league members are doing, but with the politics of the country, which I think is an extremely important thing to bring into an organization," said Ann McBride, president of Common Cause, which is collaborating with the league and other like-minded groups on a grass-roots lobbying drive to promote campaign finance reform.

The league's education fund is helping to host a series of "citizen assemblies" nationwide that explore the relationship between money and politics. Dubbed "Money + Politics: People Change the Equation," the project is a team effort with the Harwood Group, a Bethesda (Md.)-based research firm. The idea is to improve public understanding and to brainstorm new solutions to the campaign reform quandary.

If the league can help fight the malaise that's driving citizens from politics, Cain said, the 76-year-old organization will, in a sense, have come full circle. Originally launched by women who'd recently won the right to vote, the league has long sought to educate voters about citizenship and coax them to the polls. To Cain, that mandate is timelier than ever.

"We're seeing this erosion of people's trust and faith in the democratic process, in the health of our democracy," Cain said. "Right now, Americans are opting out of the system. That's new, and that scares us. Because